



Dear Members of the Virginia General Assembly:

The road to a low-carbon economy is paved with opportunity. The passage of the Virginia Clean Economy Act in 2020, the adoption of the Advanced Clean Car Standards in 2021, and the recent move to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative position the Commonwealth to make critical progress on decarbonization while investing in a competitive, resilient economy. As major employers and businesses in Virginia, we write to express our appreciation for your leadership and to share our ongoing support for policies that deploy clean technologies and achieve economy-wide emission reductions.

As major energy consumers with operations and investments in Virginia, we understand the economic risk posed by climate change and the parallel opportunity presented by a low-carbon economy. The Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA) established an important framework for effectively decarbonizing Virginia's electricity grid and protecting public health, and the market-based mechanisms of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) ensure that the Commonwealth pursues the most economically efficient carbon reduction pathways. Proceeds from RGGI will allow Virginia to establish energy efficiency programs and enable localities to create or sustain flood mitigation programs. It is critical that these programs persist to ensure both the state and our companies achieve our shared goals of driving new in-state investment, encouraging innovation, and fostering long-term economic health.

Because transportation is the largest source of emissions in Virginia and nationwide, the implementation of the new low-emission vehicle and zero-emission vehicle standards under the Advanced Clean Car (ACC) Program and the pursuit of new policies under the Multi-State Medium- and Heavy-duty Zero Emission Vehicle Memorandum of Understanding are also integral to the Commonwealth's decarbonization plan. Over the next few years, the ACC program will increase the availability and development of more-efficient vehicle models in Virginia, build a more competitive marketplace, support consumer choice, and provide access to cost-saving opportunities for all Virginians.¹ Additional standards that apply to commercial trucks and buses will ensure that businesses also have access to the vehicles they want to decarbonize their fleets, reaping cost-saving benefits,² and reducing local air pollution.

¹ Federal fuel economy standards saved Virginia \$870 million through 2017 and were projected to save households an additional [\\$2,900 in fuel costs](#) by 2030 before the Trump Administration rollbacks.

² Most EV owners save between [\\$6,000 - \\$10,000](#) over the lifetime of the vehicle through reduced fuel and maintenance costs.

Clean energy and vehicle standards are an important tool for businesses to cut energy costs, avoid the volatility of fuel prices, and stay competitive. Our companies are motivated to make investments in places where we can access these types of policies. The suite of policies mentioned above is essential to building a predictable pathway for decarbonization in Virginia and should continue to be prioritized alongside fair and equitable opportunities for customer-driven renewable energy. In the coming years, we hope Virginia will continue to provide a hospitable environment for clean energy and clean transportation investments and, in turn, remain on track in its pursuit of a prosperous low-carbon economy.

We look forward to working with you during the 2022 legislative session.

Sincerely,

Hannon Armstrong
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Mars, Inc.
Nestlé
Sweet Briar College
Unilever
University of Lynchburg
Virginia Wesleyan University
Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges
Workday
Worthen Industries